

Serial No.: 10/065,283  
Attorney Docket No.: F-523

Patent

## REMARKS

### 1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 15 and 17 and canceled claims 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has added new claim 21. Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-21 will remain pending in the application.

### 2. Response to Arguments

Starting on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner addresses the earlier arguments of the applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach determining of a proper form type is present for use and do not agree that it is a reasonable interpretation to read Rhoads '212 as teaching or suggesting a form version database as claimed. Applicants have pointed out why it is not reasonable to combine the references as suggested, not merely attacking the references individually.

### 3. Rejections under 35 USC 103

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 and 5-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0006212 submitted by Rhoads, et al. ("Rhoads '212") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,666,376 B1 to Ericson ("Ericson '367").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 and the rejection is moot.

In contrast to the assertion by the Examiner, Rhoads '212 does not describe identifying a version of a form, but merely discusses embedding a unique document

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identifier that may include document version information. Similarly, the cited reference describes a database of document revision numbers in which each document has a unique identifier. Such a system does not teach or fairly suggest a form version database.

Applicants note the removal of Official Notice as replaced with U.S. Patent No. 5,684,990 and Applicants respectfully submit that the reference is not properly combined as there was no motivation to combine the references. For example, Rhoads '212 does not describe or suggest any need for a distributed database such as currently claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references are not properly combined. Rhoads '212 does not contemplate a pointing instrument at all and certainly does not contemplate forms that may be filled in using a pointing instrument such as a digital pen. Rhoads '212 does not teach or suggest such a fillable form. The several references to ticket processing are clearly not applicable.

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0006212 submitted by Rhoads, et al. ("Rhoads '212") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,666,376 B1 to Ericson ("Ericson '367") and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0169963 submitted by Seder, et al. ("Seder '963").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 and the rejection is moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references are not properly combined and that claims 3-4 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above.

In section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application

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No. 2002/0006212 submitted by Rhoads, et al. ("Rhoads '212") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,666,376 B1 to Ericson ("Ericson '367") and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0169963 submitted by Seder, et al. ("Seder '963").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 17 and the rejection is moot.

Seder clearly does not teach or suggest determining if a user is an authorized user of a form.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-20 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-9 and 11-20.

Applicants have added new claim 21 and submit that the new claims are patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-9 and 11-21 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

#### 4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

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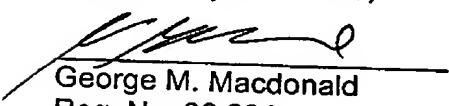
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**5. Authorization**

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-523.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-523.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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10/17/05 Amendment